

The Poster

A good poster is uncluttered and clear in design. It has legible text and logical organization. The main tenet of a good poster design is simplification. Use a crisp, clean design and a strong title. Do not tell the entire research history; present only enough data to support your conclusions and show the originality of the work. The text material should be reduced to convey your points quickly and clearly. Many successful posters display a succinct statement of major conclusions at the beginning, followed by supporting text in later segments, and a brief summary at the end.

A professional appearance is achieved by mounting illustrations and captions on colored poster-board with a ¼" to a ½" border as a frame. Double mounting with different colored poster board is a clever way to color coordinate different sections of the poster.

Posters should feature a title, your name, the name of the institution where the research was performed, the sponsor (Department of Energy), and should credit persons who have helped you with your research.

Selected students may either:

- assemble the poster on-site
or
- take the prepared poster with them to the competition.

If the poster is assembled on-site: For ease of transport, make the poster elements small enough to package and carry. Be sure to pack a measuring tape, push pins or Velcro, and a sketch of the poster layout so you will be prepared to set up the poster quickly. We will not supply poster boards at the competition.

If the student prepares the entire poster beforehand: it may be hard-backed or soft-backed (rolled-up).

Preparation

- The finished poster should be a maximum of 31" x 47."
- The top of the poster should consist of an easy-to-read and easy to understand Title that includes author(s) name(s). The title lettering should be about 2" to 3" (5cm to 7.5cm) with subheadings ½" to 1" high (1.25cm to 2.5cm).
- All lettering should be legible from about 5 feet (1.5m) away.
- Text material is ideally

24 point (1/4", .625cm)

- The component parts should be organized in a way that leads the viewer through the display.

- Colored matting can be very effective here.
- Leave some open space in the design.
- Use elements of different size and proportions. Convert tabular material to graphic display, if possible.
- A large and/or bright center of interest can draw the eye to the most important aspect of the poster. Use color to add emphasis and clarity.
- Make illustrations simple and bold. Enlarge photos to show pertinent details clearly.
- All illustrations, graphs and pictures should have their own attached explanations.
- Displayed materials should be self-explanatory, freeing you for discussion.
- Handouts of your abstract should be available for interested viewers.
- Demonstrations of experiments or three-dimensional displays are not typical of a poster session.

*These guidelines were taken, in part, from the AAAS-American Junior Academy of Science Poster Session guidelines for the year 2007.